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TAGS: OASGA

SUBJECT: OASGA INAUGURAL SESSION AND FIRST PLENARY, MAY 8.1975

USDEL NO. 2

1. MORNING PREPARATORY SESSION OF GENERAL COMMITTEE WENT PRETTY MUCH AS EXPECTED, WITH APPROVAL OF AGENDA, COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, AND ELECTION OF COLOMBIA FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO AS CHAIRMAN OF THE 5TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MAY 19 WAS SET AS THE TENTATIVE CLOSING DATE. AT COSTA RICA SUGGESTION, ITEM WAS ADDED TO AGENDA CALLING FOR INFORMATION ON THE COURSE OF THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. ECUADOR, BRAZIL ET AL. SQUELCHED LISTLESS PANAMANIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTEMPT TO PREVENT SECRETARY GENERAL PLAZA FROM MAKING

TRADITIONAL STATEMENT AT INAUGURAL SESSION.

2. THIRTY MINUTE INAUGURAL SESSION BEGAN AT 4:20, WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER LEADING USDEL. ONLY PROVISIONAL CHAIRMAN MOE, FOREIGN MINISTER OF BARBADOS, AND PLAZA SPOKE. MOE PRAISED CERDS FOR REAFFIRMING THE URGENCY FOR UNIVERSALLY APPLICABLE NORMS TO CORRECT ECONOMIC INJUSTICES, CRITICIZED THE TRADE ACT AND DELAYS IN

IMPLEMENTING PREFERENCE SYSTEMS AS INTERFERING WITH THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE HEMISPHERE, AND URGED THE WILL TO ADOPT POSITIVE AND FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENTS FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS IN THE HEMISPHERE. PLAZA QUOTED LLERAS CAMARGO "THE OAS HAS MADE THE RICH NATIONS AWARE OF CONSTRAINTS ON THEIR INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS, AND THE WEAK AWARE THAT THEIR JUST WORDS TO DETER ARMED ACTION AND THREATENING PRESSURE." HE ENCOURAGED THE OAS TO TAKE JOINT ACTION TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT, NOTED THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC RICHNESS OF LA, AND SUGGESTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF "WORLD-WIDE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL ENSURE STABLE, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY RIGID PRICES FOR BASIC PRODUCTS."

3. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INAUGURAL SESSION (AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE), FIRST PLENARY SESSION CONVENED. (CHAIRMAN LIEVANO MADE ONLY FEW BRIEF REMARKS ("FOLLOWING EXAMPLE OF OUR DECISION TO ABANDON TRADITIONS OF LONG STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF PRIVATE INFORMAL CONVERSATION") IN WHICH HE REMINDED THE DELEGATES OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN RELATIONSHIPS AND IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWER AMONG STATES, AND SUGGESTED MEDITATION ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW ERA. THE PLENARY THEN APPROVED THE AGENDA, COMMITTEES, ETC. AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL COMMITTEE THIS MORNING INCLUDING PROCEDURES AND TOPICS FOR "CONVERSATIONS" (SEE USDEL NO. 1) THEN IT RAPIDLY APPROVED THE APPLICATION OF GRENADA FOR OAS MEMBERSHIP. WE UNDERSTAND GRENADA HOPES TO SIGN CHARTER AND DEPOSIT INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION WHILE THE ASSEMBLY IS STILL IN SESSION.

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4. FIRST "CONVERSATION" SCHEDULED FOR 10 A.M. FRIDAY. (SEE USDEL NO. , KISSINGER

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